



Commonwealth of Kentucky
Department of Juvenile Justice's Communications Office

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**Department of Juvenile Justice Appoints Samantha Woods Division
Director for Community and Mental Health Services**

FRANKFORT, Ky. – The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced that Samantha Woods has been appointed as division director for Community and Mental Health Services.

Woods began her career with DJJ in 1998, working two part-time positions, community service coordinator and administrative specialist for community services and has worked her way through the ranks. She became a juvenile services worker in 2001, a juvenile services specialist in 2006 and then a juvenile services district supervisor. In 2009, Woods was promoted to southeast district regional manager.

“Samantha brings an extensive range of experience in community services within juvenile justice. She has served more than 16 years in the field,” said DJJ Deputy Commissioner Miranda Denney. “I know she will continue to work hard to move the juvenile justice system forward in Kentucky and achieve better outcomes for our youth and families in the Commonwealth.”

Woods will oversee case management, supervision, assessment and treatment to identified department youth and families.

“This is an incredible opportunity and I am both honored and grateful to assist in leading the Community/Mental division forward in years to come. I appreciate the opportunity to address the challenges that are facing juvenile justice and our youth,” said Woods. “I value the confidence the department has shown in my abilities to lead the community and mental health services division.”

Woods received a bachelor of science degree from Union College and a master's degree from Lindsey Wilson. Her appointment was effective Sept. 1, 2014.

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